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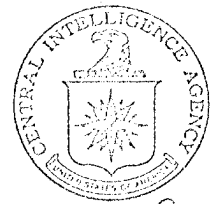
CAMEROON

Nzo EKHAI-NGHAKY

Minister of Labor and Social Welfare

Although he was originally brought into the federal Cabinet in July of 1964 as Minister of Public Health because of the urgings of federal Vice President John Foncha, Nzo Ekhai-Nghaky seems to have established himself as a politician with an independent base of power. He became Minister of Labor and Social Welfare in May of 1965, and is generally considered to be one of the young, educated elite in the federal Cabinet.

CENTRAL REFERENCE
SERVICE



[REDACTED] Ekhai-Nghaky rose in politics through the West Cameroon political party of former West Cameroon Prime Minister, John Foncha.

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When the KNDP, as well as other political parties in Cameroon, merged to form the only legal political party in the country in 1966, the Cameroonian National Union (UNC)--led by federal President Ahmadou Ahidjo--Ekhai-Nghaky became one of the four assistant secretaries of the UNC and was charged with press, information, and propaganda.

In spite of the fact that Ekhai-Nghaky has been a vociferous critic of the paucity of English-speaking West Cameroon influence on the federal level--as contrasted with the preponderant East Cameroon and French influence--he has always been a loyal supporter of the President.

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As Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, he has opposed the growing leftist influence within the government-sponsored Trade Union Federation of Cameroon (TUC)

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

Nzo EKHAH-NGHAKY (cont.)

Nzo Ekhah-Nghaky was born on 22 March 1934 at Nguti, near Mamfe, West Cameroon. He received a primary education at the Basel Mission School in Bali from 1945 to 1954. In 1954 he went to the Hope Waddell Training Institute and then won a Nigerian government scholarship to attend the University of Ibadan. He then went to the UK, and in 1959 he received a BA (honors) from London University. With the aid of a West German government scholarship he studied German at the Goethe Institute of Ebersberg and then went to the University of Bonn. Active in Nigerian student associations during his years in London, he represented these groups at conferences of the International Students Movement for the United Nations (1957-59) and was at one time elected vice president of the movement. He also attended sessions of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (1957-58).

Ekhah-Nghaky came home in 1959 and became assistant secretary in the Southern Cameroons Ministry of Social Service and, concurrently, secretary of the Southern Cameroons Scholarship Board. In December 1961 he was elected to the West Cameroon Legislative Assembly from Mamfe district. Originally brought into the federal Cabinet as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in March 1962 in order to bring West Cameroonian representation to the Foreign Ministry, he became Minister of Public Health in July 1964, and served in that capacity until appointed to his present position. At the August 1963 congress of the KNDP, he was elected secretary general of the party, despite strong opposition from the more conservative elements of the KNDP. He also served as managing editor of the Cameroon Times, the KNDP-backed newspaper of West Cameroon.

060

Ekhah-Nghaky has traveled widely in Europe and, shortly after his appointment as Deputy Foreign Minister, led a five-week goodwill tour to the Far and Near East (September and October, 1962). He attended the 49th session of the International Labor Organization in Geneva in June 1965. He is the author of two publications, Introduction to Eastern Kamerun (1956) and To the Nigerian People (1958). Ekhah-Nghaky speaks French in addition to English; he presumably knows some German. He is married and has one daughter.

19 May 1969

12